CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

capturing data or state for migration to a new operating system and storing the data or state at a remote network location;

first installing a pre-installation environment on a target computer that is desired to be imaged with the new operating system, the pre-installation environment comprising a subset of an operating system, wherein the act of installing the pre-installation environment comprises installing the pre-installation environment in a same disk partition as an old operating system;

in response to the capturing and first installing, generating a first status report by an old client associated with the old operating system;

re-booting the target computer, wherein rebooting the target computer activates the pre-installation environment on the target computer;

deleting the old operating system from within the pre-installation environment;

second installing the new operating system from within the pre-installation environment, wherein the new operating system is deployed in the same disk partition as the old operating system, whereby non-operating system data on the disk is preserved;

re-booting the target computer in the new operating system;

migrating the data or state stored in the network location to the new operating system; and

in response to the deleting, second installing, and migrating, generating a second

status report by a new client associated with the new operating system,

wherein the new operating system and pre-installation environment are deployed at a same time to the target computer as components of an image deployment package.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the data or state includes machine data.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the data or state includes user data.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the data or state includes user state.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the data or state includes client data.

8 - 10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A method for remotely imaging multiple target

computers with a new operating system comprising:

imaging multiple target computers with a new operating system using a multi-phase image deployment process, said multi-phase deployment process comprising at least:

a preparation phase in which various data is captured for migration to the new operating system and stored at a remote network location, wherein the preparation phase comprises installing a pre-installation environment from which in place installation can take place, the pre-installation environment comprising a subset of an operating system, wherein the act of installing the pre-installation environment comprises installing the pre-installation environment in a same disk partition as the old operating system;

a wipe and load phase in which an old operating system is deleted and the new operating system is installed in place, wherein the new operating system is deployed in the same disk partition as the old operating system, whereby non-operating system data on the disk is preserved; and

a restoration phase in which captured data is migrated to the new operating system,

wherein the multi-phase image deployment process is configured to generate status reports during each of the phases, said status reports being transmittable to a system administrator to facilitate management of the image deployment process, wherein status reports are generated by an old client associated with the old operating system, and a new client associated with the new operating system, and

wherein the new operating system and pre-installation environment are deployed

at a same time to the target computer as components of an image deployment package.

12. (Previously Presented) The method for remotely imaging multiple target computers with a new operating system of claim 11, wherein the preparation phase can capture data associated with one or more of machine state, client state, user state and/or user data.

13. (Previously Presented) The method for remotely imaging multiple target computers with a new operating system of claim 12, wherein machine state data can comprise one or more of computer name, domain, and network settings.

14. (Previously Presented) The method for remotely imaging multiple target computers with a new operating system of claim 12, wherein client state data can comprise Site association or code, client GUID, and an associated distribution point.

15. (Previously Presented) The method for remotely imaging multiple target computers with a new operating system of claim 12, wherein user state data can comprise a user profile.

16. (Previously Presented) The method for remotely imaging multiple target computers with a new operating system of claim 12, wherein user data can comprise folders and files desired for migration and network share settings.

17 - 18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) The method for remotely imaging multiple target computers with a new operating system of claim 11, wherein the wipe and load phase comprises enabling a target computer to connect with at least one of a number of destination points from which an image file containing the new operating system image is obtained.

20 - 24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) A method for in-place imaging of a target computer with a new operating system comprising:

notifying the target computer user that the new operating system is desired to be deployed on the target computer;

providing the user with an option to postpone operating system deployment on the target computer;

capturing data or state for migration to the new operating system and storing the data or state at a remote network location;

first installing a pre-installation environment on the target computer that is desired to be imaged with a new operating system, the pre-installation environment comprising a subset of an operating system, wherein the act of installing the pre-installation environment comprises installing the pre-installation environment in a same disk partition as an old operating system;

in response to the capturing and first installing, generating a first status report by an old client associated with the old operating system;

re-booting the target computer, wherein rebooting the target computer activates the pre-installation environment on the target computer;

deleting an old operating system from within the pre-installation environment;

second installing the new operating system from within the pre-installation environment, wherein the new operating system is deployed in the same disk partition as the old operating system, whereby non-operating system data on the disk is preserved;

re-booting the target computer in the new operating system;

migrating the data or state stored in the network location to the new operating system; and

in response to the deleting, second installing, and migrating, generating a second status report by a new client associated with the new operating system,

wherein the new operating system and pre-installation environment are deployed at a same time to the target computer as components of an image deployment package.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25 further comprising providing the user with an option to disallow operating system deployment on the target computer.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25 further comprising providing the user with an option to immediately begin an operating system deployment

process on the target computer.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25 further comprising providing the user with an option to disallow operating system deployment process on the target computer, and an option to immediately begin an operating system deployment process on the target computer.

29. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the act of providing comprises allowing the user to specify a postponement duration.

30 - 41. (Canceled)

42. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

creating an operating system image that is to be deployed across a plurality of target machines, said image comprising one or more image files;

creating an image package that contains said one or more image files and at least a deployment environment for installing the image on said target machines;

distributing the image package to one or more distribution points from which individual target machines can access the image package;

notifying a target machine user that a new operating system image is desired to be deployed on ~~the~~ a target machine of the plurality of target machines;

providing the user with an option to postpone image deployment on the target machine;

capturing data or state for migration to the new operating system image and storing the data or state at a remote network location;

deploying the image package to the target machine;

first installing ~~a pre-installation~~ the deployment environment of the image package on [[a]] the target machine ~~computer~~ that is desired to be imaged with the new image, the ~~pre-installation~~ deployment environment comprising a subset of an operating system, wherein the act of installing the ~~pre-installation~~ deployment environment comprises installing the ~~pre-installation~~ deployment environment in a same disk partition as an old operating system;

in response to the capturing and first installing, generating a first status report by an old client associated with the old operating system;

re-booting the target machine ~~computer~~, wherein rebooting the target machine ~~computer~~ activates the ~~pre-installation~~ deployment environment on the target machine ~~computer~~;

deleting the old operating system from within the ~~pre-installation~~ deployment environment;

second installing the new operating system image from within the ~~pre-installation~~ deployment environment wherein the new operating system image is deployed in the same disk partition as the old operating system, whereby non-operating system data on the disk is preserved;

re-booting the target machine ~~computer~~ with the new operating system image ~~package~~; and

migrating the data or state stored in the network location to the new operating

system image; and

in response to the deleting, second installing, and migrating, generating a second status report by a new client associated with the new operating system image.

43. (Original) The method of claim 42 further comprising providing the user with an option to disallow image deployment on the target machine.

44. (Original) The method of claim 42 further comprising providing the user with an option to immediately begin an image deployment process on the target machine.

45. (Original) The method of claim 42 further comprising providing the user with an option to disallow image deployment process on the target machine, and an option to immediately begin an image deployment process on the target machine.

46. (Original) The method of claim 42, wherein the act of providing comprises allowing the user to specify a postponement duration.

47 - 49. (Canceled)

50. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

creating an operating system image of a new operating system that is to be deployed across a plurality of target machines, said image comprising one or more

image files;

creating an image package that contains said one or more image files and at least a deployment environment for installing the image on said target machines;

distributing the image package to one or more distribution points from which individual target machines can access the image package;

deploying the image package to a target machine of the plurality of target machines;

capturing target machine data or state for migration to the new operating system image and storing the data or state at a remote network location;

first installing the deployment environment on [[a]] the target machine that is desired to be imaged with the new operating system, the deployment environment comprising a subset of an operating system, wherein the act of installing the deployment environment comprises installing the deployment environment in a same disk partition as an old operating system;

in response to the capturing and first installing, generating a first status report by an old client associated with the old operating system;

re-booting the target machine, wherein rebooting the target computer activates the deployment environment on the target computer;

deleting an old operating system from within the deployment environment;

second installing the new operating system from within the deployment environment, wherein the new operating system is deployed in the same disk partition as the old operating system, whereby non-operating system data on the disk is preserved;

re-booting the target machine in the new operating system; and

migrating the data or state stored in the network location to the new operating system; and

in response to the deleting, second installing, and migrating, generating a second status report by a new client associated with the new operating system.

51. (Canceled)

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50 wherein the data or state includes machine data.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50 wherein the data or state includes user data.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50 wherein the data or state includes user state.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50 wherein the data or state includes client data.

56 - 58. (Canceled)

59. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

creating an operating system image of a new operating system that is to be deployed across a plurality of target machines, said image comprising one or more image files;

creating an image package that contains said one or more image files and at least a deployment environment for installing the image on said target machines;

distributing the image package to one or more distribution points from which individual target machines can access the image package; and

using a multi-phase image deployment process to remotely image, from at least one distribution point, multiple target computers with the new operating system, said multi-phase deployment process comprising at least:

a preparation phase in which the image package is deployed to the target computers and various data is captured for migration to the new operating system and stored at a remote network location, wherein the preparation phase comprises installing the deployment environment from which in place installation can take place, the deployment environment comprising a subset of an operating system, wherein the act of installing the deployment environment comprises installing the deployment environment in a same disk partition as the old operating system;

a wipe and load phase in which an old operating system is deleted and the new operating system is installed in place, wherein the new operating system is deployed in the same disk partition as the old operating system, whereby non-operating system data on the disk is preserved; and

a restoration phase in which captured data is migrated to the new operating

system,

wherein the multi-phase image deployment process is configured to generate status reports during each of the phases, said status reports being transmittable to a system administrator to facilitate management of the image deployment process, wherein status reports are generated by an old client associated with the old operating system, and a new client associated with the new operating system.

60. (Canceled)

61. (Original) The method of claim 59, wherein the wipe and load phase comprises enabling a target machine to connect with at least one of the distribution points to obtain the image package.

62 - 76. (Canceled)